

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 06316 01 OF 02 211631Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 107472

P R 211619Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0531

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06316

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK(NI)

SUBJECT: SUNNINGDALE PARTIES SHOULD AGREE TO NEW

ASSEMBLY ELECTION: ANALYSIS

REF: LONDON 3777

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY: UWC STRIKE FOR NEW NORTHERN IRELAND
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS CONFRONTS SUNNINGDALE PARTIES WITH
DILEMMA LARGELY OF OWN MAKING. THEIR DISMISSAL OF
CONSTITUTIONALLY EXPRESSED LOYALIST VIEWS ON EXECUTIVE
AND SUNNINGDALE DEPRIVE THEM OF MORAL AUTHORITY IN
REFUSING CONCESSIONS TO "POLITICAL STRIKERS." THIS IS
PARTICULARLY TRUE OF PRESENT LABOR HMG IN VIEW OF ITS
RECORD ON NI, AND OWN "RENEGOTIATION" AND POLITICAL
STRIKES IN OTHER CONTEXTS. WE THINK ONE WAY FORWARD
WOULD BE FOR SUNNINGDALE PARTIES TO AGREE NOT TO TRANS-
FER EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TO COUNCIL OF IRELAND BEFORE NEW
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 06316 01 OF 02 211631Z

ASSEMBLY ELECTION, IN RETURN FOR LOYALISTS' AGREEMENT

BROADLY TO ACCEPT PRESENT INSTITUTIONS AND RESULTS OF SUCH ELECTION. ALTHOUGH HMG AND OTHER SUNNINGDALE PARTIES HAVE BEEN AVOIDING ELECTION THEY THOUGHT EXECUTIVE WOULD LOSE, SUCH AN ELECTION WOULD EITHER CONFIRM LEGITIMACY OF PRESENT INSTITUTIONS OR GIVE HMG OPTION OF RENEGOTIATING CONSTITUTION ACT, INCLUDING PLEDGE THAT NI CAN STAY IN UK AS LONG AS NI PEOPLE WISH. THOUGH STRIKE HAS POLARIZED SUNNINGDALE PARTIES AND LOYALISTS, THERE ARE INDICATIONS SOME PEOPLE HERE ARE THINKING ALONG LINES INDICATED ABOVE. END SUMMARY.

1. ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL STRIKE FOR NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTION PLACES SUNNINGDALE PARTIES--HMG, GOI AND 3 NI EXECUTIVE PARTIES--IN DILEMMA VERY LARGELY OF THEIR OWN MAKING. THEY ESTABLISHED POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE FOR WHICH JUNE 1973 ASSEMBLY ELECTION PROVIDED NO MANDATE AND WHICH APPEARED NOT TO HAVE WIDE ACCEPTABILITY REQUIRED BY NI CONSTITUTION ACT. THEY REACHED SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT, INVOLVING FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO NI POPULAR MANDATE, AT CONFERENCE FROM WHICH LOYALISTS WERE EXCLUDED IN VIOLATION OF HMG'S WHITE PAPER PLEDGE. THEY REFUSED NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTION, AND THEN TRIED TO DISMISS AND IGNORE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE FROM FEBRUARY 28 WESTMINSTER GENERAL ELECTION THAT COUNCIL OF IRELAND WAS REJECTED AND EXECUTIVE NOT WIDELY ACCEPTABLE. HAVING IGNORED OR DISMISSED ALL DEMANDS PUT FORWARD BY LOYALISTS IN CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY FASHION, THEY NOW INDIGNANTLY REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE WITH "POLITICAL STRIKERS."

2. PRESENT BRITISH LABOR GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY IRRITATING TO LOYALISTS. AS THEY SEE IT, THE THEN LABOR GOVERNMENT IN 1969 BEGAN PROCESS OF UNDERMINING NI GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OF NI INTERNAL SECURITY; NOW IT DEMANDS THAT NI PEOPLE DEFEND SELVES. IT DEMANDS RENEGOTIATION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, BUT DISMISSES LOYALISTS DEMANDS FOR RENEGOTIATION OF NI CONSTITUTION ACT. IT EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT POLITICAL USE OF STRIKE WEAPON BY UWC, BUT CAVES IN REPEATEDLY TO BRITISH TRADE UNIONS STRIKING FOR POLITICAL REASONS ACROSS THE WATER. AS A RESULT, PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 06316 01 OF 02 211631Z

HMG'S MORAL AUTHORITY HERE IS MINIMAL WITH LOYALIST WORKERS.

3. WE THINK THAT STRIKERS DEMAND FOR NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTION, ALTHOUGH BACKED BY UNREASONABLE PRESSURES, IS, IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING, FUNDAMENTALLY REASONABLE AND DEMOCRATIC. IT IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH CONSTITUTION ACT AND EVEN WITH INITIAL STEPS NOW REPORTEDLY BEING PLANNED TO

IMPLEMENT SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT. AS WE SUGGESTED REFTTEL,
ONE WAY TO RESOLVE PRESENT DILEMMA COULD BE THAT SUNNING-
DALE PARTIES AGREE TO IMPLEMENT ALMOST ALL PROVISIONS OF
AGREEMENT, EXCEPT THAT MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE ASSEMBLY
APPROVAL ACCORDING TO SECTION 12 OF NI CONSTITUTION ACT--
TRANSFER OF EXECUTIVE POWERS AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO
COUNCIL OF IRELAND--WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED BEFORE NEW

SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 06316 02 OF 02 211634Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 107596

P R 211619Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0532

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06316

ASSEMBLY ELECTION. IN RETURN FOR THIS, LOYALISTS WOULD
BE ASKED TO ACCEPT CONSTITUTION ACT AND BE LOYAL OPPOSI-
TION TO PRESENT POWER-SHARING EXECUTIVE PENDING ELECTION,
AND TO ACCEPT RESULTS OF THAT ELECTION. THIS COMPROMISE
WOULD REASSURE LOYALISTS THAT NO IRREVOCABLE STEPS WOULD
BE TAKEN TOWARD COUNCIL OF IRELAND, WHILE MAINTAINING
SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT BATTERED BUT INTACT AND RETAINING
ITS SUPPORTERS' CONTROL OF TIMING OF ELECTION.

4. MAIN REASON SUNNINGDALE PARTIES HAVE STALLED ELECTION IS FEAR EXECUTIVE WOULD LOSE EARLY ONE, COMBINED WITH HOPE IT COULD WIN AFTER EXECUTIVE AND SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT HAVE CHANCE TO PRODUCE BENEFITS. BUT IRONICALLY, WHATEVER ITS RESULTS ELECTION COULD HELP RESOLVE "NI PROBLEM" FOR HMG. VICTORY FOR EXECUTIVE WOULD CONFIRM LEGITIMACY OF CURRENT INSTITUTIONS AND STRENGTHEN SUNNINGDALE PARTIES' HAND IN DEALING WITH EXTREMISTS; WHILE VICTORY FOR THOSE WHO WOULD "RENEGOTIATE" CONSTITUTION ACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 06316 02 OF 02 211634Z

WOULD ENABLE HMG TO OPEN QUESTION OF THAT ACT'S PLEDGE THAT NI MAY REMAIN IN UK SO LONG AS ITS PEOPLE WISH AND PROVIDE A POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR CONSIDERING WHETHER IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE ITS WAY OUT OF NI.

5. STRIKE HAS CERTAINLY INCREASED POLARIZATION BETWEEN SUNNINGDALE PARTIES AND LOYALISTS AND DISRUPTION AND INTIMIDATION ASSOCIATED WITH IT ARE CREATING VOLATILE SITUATION WHICH COULD ESCALATE INTO VIOLENCE. ALREADY ROAD BLOCKS ARE UP AND BUSES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN BECAUSE MANY HAVE BEEN HIJACKED AND BURNED. BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE THINKING ALONG LINES OF COMPROMISE INDICATED ABOVE. NI SECSTATE REES, WHILE EMPHASIZING HE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH POLITICAL STRIKERS UNDER DURESS, HAS ADMITTED NI PEOPLE MUST DECIDE OWN FUTURE AND AVOIDED CLOSING DOOR TO ELECTION BEFORE ASSEMBLY'S TERM EXPIRES IN 1977. NI LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STRIKERS AND SECSTATE, AND UNIONIST ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ROY BRADFORD URGED SECSTATE TO COMMUNICATE WITH UWC AND IMPLIED NI PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO GIVE VERDICT AT POLLS BEFORE SUNNINGDALE IMPLEMENTED.
SOHM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON06316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740126-0668
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740531/aaaabaxx.tel
Line Count: 208
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LONDON 3777
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUNNINGDALE PARTIES SHOULD AGREE TO NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTION: ANALYSIS
TAGS: PINT, UK, (NI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005